

Applicants have added Claims 35 - 39. Support for Claim 35 is found in the specification at, for example page 12, line 24 to page 13, line 4 and Figure 2. Support for Claim 36 is found in the specification at, for example, page 7, lines 9 - 10. Support for Claim 37 is found in the specification at, for example, page 3, line 26 to page 4, line 8, page 7, lines 9 - 11 and page 22, lines 16 - 28. Support for Claim 38 is found in the specification at, for example, page 13, line 10 to page 15, line 2 and Figures 3A, 3B and 3C. Support for Claim 39 is found in the specification at, for example, page 13, line 18 to page 14, line 28 and in Claim 14.

2. Restriction Requirement

The application stands restricted to the following groups pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121:

Group I:                      Claims 1-12 and 32-34, are drawn to a microfluidic device classified in class 436, subclass 514;

Group II:                     Claims 13-15 drawn to observation apparatus comprising a plurality of microfluidic devices sharing a common detection zone, classified in class 436, subclass 501;

Group III:                    Claims 16-31, drawn to a methods of detection an effect on a biochemical system using cells and various test compounds, classified in class 435, subclass 7.21.

Applicants elect Group III, Claims 16 - 31, without traverse. Accordingly, Applicants have canceled Claims 1 - 15 and 32 - 34, drawn to the non-elected inventions.

The Office Action indicates that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Generic claims allegedly recite: a method of observing any type of effect caused by a single

candidate compound using any type of cell (Claims 16, 18, 23-26)

Species claims allegedly recite:

1. a method of observing cell activation caused by candidate compound using lymphocytes (Claim 20);
2. a method of observing calcium influx caused by candidate compound using lymphocytes (Claims 27 -28)
3. a method of observing an effect on leukocyte rolling caused by candidate compound using leukocytes;
4. a method of observing any type of effect caused by two candidate compounds using any type of cell (Claims 17, 19, 21-22)
5. a method of observing an inhibitory effect caused by candidate compound using lymphocytes (Claims 22)

Applicants elect a method of observing an inhibitory effect caused by a candidate compound using lymphocytes (Claim 22) (item 5 above) without traverse.

3. Formalities

Paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Office Action do not appear to apply to this application, since this application currently does not have Claims 88-94. Accordingly, Applicants have not replied to these paragraphs. The Examiner is requested to explain these paragraphs further if the paragraphs are applicable to this application.

Applicants request an early consideration of the claims, as amended.

Respectfully submitted,  
BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: Leslie Mooi  
Leslie A. Mooi  
Registration No. 37,047

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(650) 854-7400

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